

The INFORMANT

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The Kansas City Missouri Police Department



Hot spot policing undergoes changes

The department's hot spot policing initiative got kicked up a notch on Jan. 1, with hundreds more officers now working to stop violence in the city's most troubled neighborhoods.

Chief Darryl Forté launched hot spot policing in May 2012, pulling officers and sergeants in non-patrol positions onto the streets 20 nights a year. Their goal was to combat violent crime in the areas of the city most plagued with it in the Central, East and Metro patrol divisions. The initiative did an admirable job increasing police presence and deterring crime, but Chief Forté realized some changes were needed.

Approximately 340 officers and sergeants now are in the rotation to work hot spot areas. That's nearly twice as many as last year. The additional help means more officers in troubled neighborhoods at the most key times – 3 to 11 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Officer Tommy Woods, special projects coordinator in the Chief's Office, said this is increasing positive contacts with residents. It's also lightened the load for department members trying to juggle hot spot assignments with their regular duties. Each officer and sergeant now only works hot spots six days per year instead of 20. Previously exempt

groups like violent and property crimes detectives, traffic investigators and pretty much everyone besides under-cover detectives now are in the mix.

In addition to crime suppression, Chief Forté had another motive for getting as many members patrolling hot spots as possible. In the event of a critical incident, he said he wants every law enforcement member on the department to be able to operate inside a police vehicle and use all the technology therein. This has led to another change: more training for officers who have been out of the field for a while.

Staff in the Police Academy, Chief's Office and Patrol Bureau have created a new "Street Reboot" course for officers. It familiarizes them with in-car technology like dash-cam video and e-ticketing as well as other department technology like booking and reporting systems.

"The class already is filled to capacity in January and February," Officer Woods said.

But perhaps the biggest change to the hot spot initiative is the new emphasis on intelligence and providing a clearer direction for what officers should be doing, Woods said. Before, officers were presented with broad goals including reducing homicides and violent crimes, building relationships and visibility.

The Law Enforcement Resource Center now provides current crime information to officers working hot spots at the revamped weekly IRIS (Incident Review and Information Sharing) meetings. The meetings have

been moved to Thursday afternoons to provide officers going out on hot spot assignments the next day with up-to-date information about suspects and witnesses who need to be located, warrant information and probation and parole information.

Two officers who attended these meetings, which just started in January, already have used the information presented to track down two wanted suspects. One was wanted for an attempted sexual assault in which he broke through a woman's apartment window to attack her. The sergeant who found him said he'd heard the man's description in the IRIS meeting and recognized him when he saw him walking down the street.



Officer Nicholas Martinez worked hot spots on January 12 in the Central Patrol Division.

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Detective named top Crime Stoppers leader

The Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers program has the best leader in the nation in Detective Kevin Boehm. Boehm was named Coordinator of the Year at the 2013 Crime Stoppers USA National Conference. In addition to having its coordinator named Coordinator of the Year in 2013, Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers also brought home awards for best print public service announcement for the KC'S Most Wanted Newspaper and for best radio spot.

The mission of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department is to protect and serve with honor and integrity.



Field of dreams brighter now

If you build it they will come.

That was proven recently at the November 16 Police Athletic League Championship Saturday football event, with more than 100 spectators in attendance. What used to be a showcase of weeds, bare spots and some grass is now an actual football field on the PAL Center property at 1801 White.

While the first game played on the field was October 5, 2013, the first *night* game was played October 23, under new lights installed by Mark One Electric. Documenting that momentous time in the PAL Center's history, Sergeant Skip Cox assembled the PAL Predators football team under the new light-up scoreboard for a group photo.

Though some of the members were reluctant to pose, Cox said, "I told them this would be the picture hanging in the PAL Center that they could come back 15 or 20 years from now and say, 'I was a part of the first night football game in the history of our PAL.'"

On Championship Saturday, plaques were presented to Mike Carter of Carter Broadcasting and Joe Privitera of Mark One Electric to officially dedicate the new light-up scoreboard. On hand to present the plaques were Deputy Chief Cheryl Rose and PAL Board President Christine Lentz. Large banners are also on permanent display thanking them for their contributions. The Predators team made the event even sweeter by winning their game and taking the Championship trophy that night.

Many things have fallen into place to create the field, beginning with the initial vision in 2009. A grant from the Greater Kansas City Local Initiative Support Corporation and donations from others spurred the project. The field was graded and an irrigation system was installed. The PAL staff even donated sweat equity to lay the 120 yards of sod.

Further, a storage container for the new football equipment, new parking lot, vinyl fencing,

flagpole, picnic area, new walking track, goal post, light-up scoreboard, concrete pad, new bleachers, landscaping and new lights all were installed.

A baseball field with backstop and fencing also was added. This required more than 50 dump-truck loads of fill dirt for both the football and baseball fields. Officers even hit the streets to recruit players.

There is still work needed at the center, however. Originally, the plan was to have an indoor/outdoor concession stand to sell food during games. Funds from concessions will help bring money back into PAL program for the general fund and maintenance.

That idea was revisited, and PAL leaders decided to instead remodel the kitchen and use the area to its full potential as a multi-purpose room with a projected completion date of April 2014. Besides concessions, the room can be used for the kids to play games and to have meals.

PAL staff monitors online auctions for restaurants selling high quality equipment they no longer need because they are going out of business. Utilizing this avenue, they are able to purchase necessary items at just pennies on the dollar.

The football field is also multi-purpose and will be used year round. While originally planned for football, it will come to life during the upcoming soccer season and for the PAL kids to just run and expend their endless energy.

"It's an excellent area for after-school programs like the kids playing kickball," Cox said.

PAL staff constantly brainstorm for ways to raise funds. They held their first 5K fun run in June of last year, held a bingo party in December and have an upcoming Pizza Ranch event on February 3. Volunteers and staff will "wait" on customers for tips, plus 10 percent of meal costs. This money will benefit PAL and the keep the Field of Dreams alive.

Michael Kilgore sworn into BOPC

Michael Kilgore, the newest member of the Board of Police Commissioners, said he's excited to serve.

"There are a lot of talented individuals serving on this board," he said. "I am impressed with the leadership."

Michael S. Kilgore, a litigation attorney who represents individuals with the law firm of Humphrey, Farrington & McClain, was sworn in as the newest member of the Board of Police Commissioners on Jan. 14.

Michael has served as an assistant Jackson County prosecutor, was an assistant Missouri attorney general and is a former chair of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

He feels his experience with the Missouri Ethics Commission and as a prosecutor is beneficial to his new role on the Board. He said he learned the importance of listening and fairness and uniform enforcement of those laws. Kilgore said his time as a prosecutor has allowed him to see up close the work of the department and the challenges officers face.

"The work they do continues to impress me," he said. "I have a lot of respect for the department."

Born and raised in Springfield, Mo., Kilgore graduated from Glendale High School. He received his under-graduate degree from the University of Missouri in 1992 and obtained his law degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in 1995.

According to his law firm's website, in his time since becoming an attorney, Kilgore has been selected as a Top Attorney in Missouri and Kansas by Super Lawyers Magazine, was selected as a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers and is a member of the Kansas City Bar Association, the Missouri Bar, the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys, The National Trial Lawyers, and the American Association for Justice.



Michael S. Kilgore took the oath of office for the Board of Police Commissioners from Judge Kevin D. Harrell on January 14.

**"I have a lot of respect
for the department."**

- Michael Kilgore
BOPC Member

Outside of his law practice Kilgore spends time with his children and runs. He runs at least three half marathons a year and completed the full marathon at the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon in 2012. He hasn't run a full one since. He said his wife tells him he is

too busy to train for full marathons. Married for twelve years to his wife Samantha, they have three children: 9-year-old Jude, 7-year-old Nicolina and 4-year-old son Sid, all of whom attend St. Peter's Catholic School.

He said he became interested in the position on the board because he saw the department's programs and innovations as a prosecutor and resident of Kansas City.

"It's a good opportunity to work with great people," he said.

Kilgore said he hopes to allow the department to continue to do the great work it has done in the past and continues to do.

KCPD launches fully redesigned web site

The department is launching a completely redesigned web site in cooperation with the City of Kansas City. The site will be search-based. Instead of clicking through numerous menus, users should simply search for what they need. The site still can be accessed by going to www.kcpd.org. The last time the department's site was redesigned was in 2009.



Upcoming Events

February 11
Board of Police
Commissioners Meeting
(South Patrol Division)

February 13
Award Ceremony

February 17
Presidents' Day

The Informant is a publication of
KCPD's Media Unit
(816) 234-5170
www.kcpd.org

Officially Speaking

Awards

Meritorious Service Award
Sergeant William Mahoney

Life-Saving Award
Officers Marvin Forbes & Daniel
Pennycuff
Officer Aaron Riley

Certificate of Commendation
Sergeant Andrew Dorothy
Sergeant Paul Luster
Sergeants Carl Abraham, Eric
Greenwell, Eric Roeder & Michael
Ward & Officers Joseph Caponetto,
Terrence Green, Trevor Hachman &
Daniel Porter & Detectives Joseph
Daneff & Craig Horalek

Special Unit Citation
Building Operations Unit

Obituaries

Retired Sergeant Boyd Faulconer
Retired Detective Roscoe Reed
Retired Officer John Bridges
Retired Civilian Ralph Baney

Retirements

Major Rosilyn Allen
Captain Jack Foster
Sergeant Jeffrey Hurley
Sergeant Sheila Vessar
Administrative Assistant Pamela
Ferguson
Administrative Assistant Robin
Jackson
Public Relations Specialist Jim
Strahle

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